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Stated Meeting, December 21, 1883.

Present, 8 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

A letter from Bishop de Schweinitz, dated Bethlehem, Dec. 12th, enclosing a certified extract from the minutes of the "Board of Directors of the *Society of the United Brethren for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen*," was read, and, on motion, it was

Resolved, That the Curators be authorized and requested to return the Zeisberger and Perlæus documents to their proper owners, and take a receipt for the same.

Donations for the Library were received from the Society at Riga, the Royal Society of Victoria, Royal Academy and Prof. Paul Albrecht of Brussels; Geographical Society of Paris and Bordeaux; the Institute of France; Royal Academy at Madrid; Meteorological, Zoölogical, and Royal Asiatic Societies at London; Cambridge Museum of Comparative Zoölogy; American Oriental Society; Prof. Oswald Seidensticker, Prof. Edwin J. Houston, and Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr.; Mr. Wm. Hand Browne of Baltimore, American Journal of Mathematics; United States National Museum; J. L. Smithmeyer; Ohio Mechanics' Institute of Cincinnati; and the American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal.

Also framed phototypes of the Smithsonian Institution Building, and of Henry W. Longfellow, presented by Mr. F. Gutekunst of Philadelphia.

The death of Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, in West Philadelphia, on the 17th of December, aged 74, was announced by the President, who was requested to appoint a member of the Society to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

A communication for the Magellanic Premium was received through the President from "Time is Money," consisting of a description and model of "A Universal Time-piece." Referred to the Board of Officers and Council.

Prof. Rothrock read a paper entitled: "The microscopic examination of timber with regard to its strength; a contribution from the Eli K. Price Botanical Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania, by Frank M. Day." Remarks were made on the interesting subject of the paper by Dr. Brinton, Mr. Ingham and Mr. Price, and the Treasurer was authorized to pay for necessary illustrations. (See page 333.)

Mr. Phillips communicated "A note respecting the correct name of the last letter of the English Alphabet?"

Mr. Lesley exhibited a small copper-plate map of Pennsylvania which he had colored geologically according to the system of Major J. W. Powell, Director of the United States Geological Survey, as a contribution to a general map of the United States now in preparation at Washington for illustrating the coloration adopted by Major Powell, and intended for presentation at the Congress of Geologists to meet at Berlin in 1884.

Dr. Allen read a paper "On a case of human congenital malformation," and exhibited two photographic views of the subject.

The reading of pending nominations was postponed.

Mr. Phillips reported that the Curators were consulting with Mr. Rothermel respecting the oil paintings of the Society.

The Report of the Finance Committee was received.

The annual appropriations for 1884 recommended therein were passed.

And the meeting was adjourned.

A Note respecting the Correct Name of the Last Letter of the English Alphabet. By Henry Phillips, Jr.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, December 21, 1883.)

A dislike of what seemed to be a growing evil, one which had greatly increased within the past twenty years, the misnomer of the last letter of the English alphabet, by which it was called *zee* instead of *zed*, led me to investigate so far as the material was accessible to me into the origin of this usage, and into the authorities by which it was countenanced. I have